

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please further amend paragraph 1 on page 1 of the specification as follows:

This application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/634,689 now Patent No. 6,344,032, filed August 8, 2000, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/942,938 filed on October 2, 1997, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,159,184, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/814,199, filed March 10, 1997, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,171,283.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 2-14 with the following:

The present invention is directed to a guard or adapter for a medical cartridge, such as a unit dose cartridge or pre-filled syringe, that is used to inject medication or other drugs into a patient. Generally, the guard comprises two parts, namely a housing or body for receiving and holding the cartridge, and a protective case or shield slidably attached to the body. In addition, for a cartridge provided without its own plunger, an embodiment of the guard includes a finger grip plug that is attached to the body and a plunger connectable to the piston of the cartridge. The various parts are generally molded from a suitable plastic, such as polypropylene, synthetic resinous polymers of butadiene and styrene, or polycarbonate, having a clear finish.